BETTER ALL THE TIME

THE TRUEBLOOD THEATRE
JANUARY 23, 24 AND 25

Better All The Time is an exciting step forward at the University of Michigan's ever-growing, ever-adventurous School of Music. A funny, heartbreaking, slightly neurotic musical parable dealing with second thoughts and second chances in life and love, it is written in the manner of a pop chamber operetta, and features a vibrant musical score in a contemporary Broadway style. The show, which will be performed January 23-25 in the Frieze Building's intimate Trueblood Theatre, has brought together some of the most distinguished theatrical talents among the University's student body, paving the way for a very unique original collaboration.

DAVID KIRSHENBAUM, author and director, began preliminary work on the show while he was still a high-school student in New York City, attending the BMI Musical Theatre Workshop for aspiring composers and lyricists. He has worked on dozens of musicals in summer stock since age 16, most recently last July at the Williamstown Theatre Festival as assistant musical director on Peter Hunt's recreation of his original staging for 1776. Here at the University of Michigan, he has served in various capacities on several shows, including musical director for MUSKET's production of Guys and Dolls and director for last spring's successful revival of Cabaret, a position he will assume once again next semester for the Ann Arbor area premiere of Chess.

ELIZABETH ROSSI, choreographer and associate director, first worked with David two years ago during her choreographic debut, the MUSKET production of Guys and Dolls. Since then, her credits include numerous pieces for dance concerts and childrens' theatre, as well as her acclaimed staging for MUSKET's Pippin. Her next assignment will be the choreography for MUSKET's Chess.

JONATHAN HAMMOND, acting coach, is no stranger to Ann Arbor audiences, having played leading roles in the University's productions of The Threepenny Opera, Tartuffe, The White Rose and The Broken Pitcher. With Better All The Time, he makes his first appearance behind the scenes.

LYNNE SHANKEL, musical consultant, made her Ann Arbor debut as conductor and musical director for MUSKET's The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, and she has since gone on to perform the same duties for their productions of Pippin and Evita. In March, she'll raise her baton once more for Chess. (over)

The cast for Better All The Time features 15 talented performers from the school's Musical Theatre Program and Department of Theatre and Drama, several of whom are members of Actors Equity Association, and all of whom have appeared in numerous other Ann Arbor area productions, including:

JAMES COOPER - The Purple Rose Theatre's production of Shoe Man

CHRISTINE FENNO - Eve in The Broken Pitcher, August Snow

HUNTER FOSTER - Robert in Company, Jack in Into the Woods, Henrik in A Little Night Music, The White Rose, If My Friends Could See Me Now!

JASON HACKNER - Featured in the ensemble of Pippin and Cabaret

TAMMY JACOBS - Featured in Pelleas and Melisande and The Broken Pitcher

MICHAEL KANIA - Vittorio Vidal in SophShow's Sweet Charity, Cabaret

MARC KESSLER - Magaldi in Evita

MARY ANN LOMBARDI - Featured in the ensemble of Evita

SARA MATHISON - Frau Martha in The Broken Pitcher

KELLY McGRATH - April in Company, Mariane in Tartuffe, Miss Adelaide in Guys and Dolls

SUSAN OWEN - Jenny in Company, Fredrika in A Little Night Music

TRACY PLESTER - Joanne in Company, Berthe in Pippin, Amalia in AACT's She Loves Me, Niki in SophShow's Sweet Charity

MIRIAM SHOR - Frau Bridget in The Broken Pitcher, Fraulein Kost in Cabaret, Catherine in Pippin

EDDIE SUGARMAN - Featured in the ensemble of Evita and The Wiz

PEGGY TRECKER - Featured in the Vocal Minority of Company, and in the ensemble of Pippin and SophShow's Sweet Charity

More information will be available in January, but in the meantime, please remember these dates so that you're sure not to miss the premiere production of Better All The Time:

JANUARY 23, 24 and 25 in the TRUEBLOOD THEATRE
We hope to see you there!